

Yellow Springs Bathhouse
Intersection of Yellow Springs Road (IR 15216)
and Art School Road
Chester Springs (West Pikeland Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1197

HABS,
PA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20143

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1197

YELLOW SPRINGS BATHHOUSE

Location: Intersection of Yellow Springs Road (LR 15216) and Art School Road, Chester Springs (West Pike-land Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Good News Productions, Inc., Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. (Acquired by Historic Yellow Springs, Inc. in 1974; restoration is planned)

Statement of Significance: Yellow Springs is one of the oldest and most successful spas in the country. This bathhouse is part of the Yellow Springs Tavern complex (see HABS No. PA-1131). The structure, with an open-air sulphur bath, was built circa 1840 and attributed to Hugh Walters, architect.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1. William Penn 1705 to Joseph Pike.
2. Joseph Pike 1727 to Elizabeth Pike.
3. Elizabeth Pike 1733 to Richard Pike.
4. Richard Pike 1752 to Samuel Hoare and Nathaniel Newberry.
5. Nathaniel Newberry 1756 to Samuel Hoare his 1/2 interest.
6. Samuel Hoare 1773 to Andrew Allen.
7. Sheriff Ezekiel Leonard 1789 to Samuel Hoare.
8. Samuel Hoare 1789 to Thomas Ruston Kennedy.
9. Thomas Ruston Kennedy 1806 to James Bones.
10. James Bones 1831 to Anthony Wayne Olwine.
11. Anthony Wayne Olwine by sheriff's sale 1838 to Margaret Holman
12. Margaret Holman 1845 to George Lingen.
13. George Lingen 1847 to Charles F. Hoffendahl a 1/3 interest.
14. George Lingen 1847 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
15. George Lingen 1848 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
16. Charles F. Hoffendahl 1850 to Henry Neef a 1/3 interest.
17. Henry Neef 1851 to Thomas G. Hollingsworth & Robert F. Walsh.
18. Jacob S. Yost, U. S. Marshal, 1860 to Susan R. Snyder.
19. Susan R. Snyder 1868 to Charles W. Deans et al.
20. Charles W. Deans et al 1869 to Chester Springs Orphans School.
21. Sheriff J. E. McFarlan 1870 to Robert Cresswell.
22. Robert Cresswell 1880 to David Simpson.
23. David Simpson 1882 to M. Simpson McCullough.
24. M. Simpson McCullough 1885 to George Pearson et al.
25. George Pearson et al. their interests to R. H. Van Horn 1886-1888.
26. R. H. Van Horn 1888 to J. T. F. Hunter.
27. J. T. F. Hunter 1891 to Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Phoenixville.
28. Above bank 1914 to Magdalene Society of Philadelphia.

29. Magdalene Society of Philadelphia 1916 to Penna. Academy of Fine Arts.
30. Penna. Academy of Fine Arts 1952 to Good News Productions, Inc.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1840.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Attributed to Hugh Walters, a Philadelphia architect (see 1839 newspaper article in data for Yellow Springs Tavern HABS No. PA-1131). Builder and suppliers are unknown.
4. Original plans, construction: Unknown, but structure appears unchanged.
5. Alterations and additions: Structure appears unchanged.
6. Important old views and references:

Views: None found.

References: Clipping, printed and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania, under headings: West Pikeland Twp. Chester Springs.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

See data for Yellow Springs Tavern (HABS No. PA-1131).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This structure, with an open-air bath, was built circa 1840 and appears to be unaltered.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: There is an enclosed vestibule with an open-air sulphur spring pool in a courtyard surrounded by a semicircular rear wall with pedimented alcoves. The structure is one story and measures approximately 24' x 34'.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone with scored stucco.
4. Chimneys: None.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Original door with pedimented hood on west (front) elevation.

b. Windows and shutters: None.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wooden shingles.

b. Cornice, eaves: Seem original.

c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floorplans: One room vestibule with open-air sulphur spring pool in courtyard surrounded by semicircular rear wall.

2. Stairways: None.

3. Flooring: Paved.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered walls.

5. Doorways and doors: One door to the west.

6. Trim: What trim there is, seems original.

7. Hardware: None.

8. Lighting: None.

9. Heating: None.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The structure is on the east side of the main road and faces west.

2. Enclosures: Fenced in.

3. Outbuildings: It is the bathhouse for the Yellow Springs Tavern (HABS No. PA-1131). Also see Yellow Springs Summer House (HABS No. PA-1198).

4. Walks, driveways: Poor condition.

5. Landscaping, gardens: Remains only.